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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [PARM](#) [CH](#) [KN](#) [KS](#) [JA](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: (C) PRC COOPERATION ON SIX-PARTY TALKS, DPRK
LIKELY UNAFFECTED BY TAIWAN ARMS SALE PIQUE

REF: A. BEIJING 248

[B](#). BEIJING 260

[C](#). BEIJING 268

[D](#). BEIJING 269

[E](#). BEIJING 270

[F](#). BEIJING 281

[G](#). BEIJING 296

Classified By: Classified by POL Minister Counselor Aubrey Carlson.
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#). (C) PRC, South Korean and Japanese contacts believe that Chinese efforts in the Six-Party Talks process will not suffer from Chinese anger at the recent U.S. decision to sell arms to Taiwan. MFA Asia Department Korean Peninsula Affairs Office Director Mao Ning told PolOff February 3 that working-level contacts between the U.S. Embassy and the MFA had not changed, and she had "no guidance" to suggest that the Chinese position on Korean Peninsula denuclearization would be affected by the Chinese reaction to the U.S. arms sale decision. This was the case, she added, despite the fact that the Chinese government and the Chinese people were "genuinely angered" by the arms sale.

[2](#). (C) Tomohiro Mikanagi, First Secretary (political) in the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, told PolOff February 5 that the possibility that Chinese cooperation on DPRK issues might be affected by the arms sale had previously been a Japanese concern, but the Embassy now believed that that would not be the case. He said the DPRK issue "now has become too much of a Chinese issue" for China to suspend its efforts out of anger with the United States. Mikanagi said the Japanese Embassy had "tested this idea" thoroughly with contacts in the Chinese government, as well as with security experts outside government, and found that this was a consensus view among DPRK experts.

[3](#). (C) ROK Embassy Political Counselor Yeo Seung-bae told PolOff February 4 that the ROK Embassy was confident that the DPRK issue would not suffer as a result of the Taiwan arms sale. Yeo said that despite MFA statements that PRC cooperation on "regional issues" would be affected as a result of the arms sale, the ROK Embassy assessed that this referred to cooperation on an Iran sanctions resolution at the United Nations, not cooperation on DPRK or the Six-Party Talks.

[4](#). (C) Renmin University International Relations scholar Shi Yinhong told PolOff February 4 that unlike Iran, North Korea was "a special case" that would not be affected by the current U.S.-China friction over the Taiwan arms sale. Ministry of State Security-affiliated China Institutes for Contemporary International Relations Director for North American Affairs Dr. Yuan Peng agreed in a conversation with PolOff February 5. "DPRK and Six-Party Talks is too much a Chinese issue, almost a core issue for China," Yuan told PolOff. "China cannot show its anger by action on DPRK

issues, or it will hurt China."
HUNTSMAN